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federal judge has apved a settlement of a suit to revamp imedical

laws ut to revamply medical case and living conditions at Tunwier prison for women in Wetumpka which the court once called a ticking time bomb."

U.S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson ruled that the settlement between attorneys for immates and the Department of Corrections properly avoids a trial and calls for essential improvements, including a safer assisted bliving space.

Thompson in an order

Thompson, in an order signed Monday, said the settlement will not vine kethe women's prison jaciliantiplaces, but it will afford class members the basic ne-cessities mandated by the

determine the prison and the prison stated. The sudge said many of the judges and alter on years. The sudge said many of the judges and stated. The sudge said many of the judges and stated. The sudge said many of the judges and many of the judges said many of the ju Medical care top concern

ventuated to 700 by November, a figure Tut-room for improvement on to 700 by November, a figure Tut-room for improvement on The settlement calls for better wiler has been approaching. If part of the DOC. access to a doctor and mental the number rises, the state "Generally this settlen health expert for inmates, and would have to add officers. agreement is affording the would have to add officers. en basic constitutional right vocates from the Southern Central bett said the department is confished by the for four department is confished by the formula of the department is confished by the department is confished by the formula of the department is confished by the department of the d

constitutional in December 2002. Pers, said despite the impro

to lower the number of prisoners settlement, there is still plent

The agreement requires DOC ments promised

"Generally this settlem agreement is affording the w en basic constitutional righ she said. "The settlement ag ment does not make Tutwiler amazing place to be."

Rohr and Corbett both poir overcrowding as a key elen

to be addressed. "The root of the problem Tutwiler and most of these suits stems from trying to 26,000 inmates in a space holds 12,500," Corbett said.